THE NINTH DAY.

Thursday, the 13th March 1930.

The Assembly met again at 11-30 A. M. on Thursday, the 13th March 1930, the Dewan presiding.

131. Coinage in Travancore.

Mr. K. P. KRISHNA MENON (*Parur taluk*) apologised for his absence, on account of illness, on the day on which his subject was scheduled to be represented.

The member said that the people of Travancore were highly gratified by the conferment, by His Majesty the King Emperor, of the title of the Crown of India on Her Highness the Maha Rani Regent.

The member realised that the subject of his representation was one which related to the prerogative of the Sovereign. The inequalities in the value of the different kinds of coins in use and the preponderance of British Indian coins in Travancore necessitated the abolition of the Travancore currency. The so-called Travancore rupee had no existence outside popular imagination. Though the rupee in use was the British Indian rupee, the accounts of the Government were maintained according to the Travancore currency.

The silver coins of the State were not current in North Travancore. In the frontier regions and at the railway stations, a chackram was deemed in practice to be equivalent to half an anna. In some places in Travancore, British Indian coins could not be exchanged for Travancore coins.

It was necessary, for the above reasons, to adopt exclusively the British Indian coinage or to revise the currency system of the State.

The rupee should be minted in the Travancore Government's Mint. There should be a more easy standardisation of Travancore coinage in relation to British Indian coinage. The British Indian rupee should be declared equivalent to thirty-two chackrams in order to obviate the difficulties experienced in converting one kind of currency into the other. Steps should be taken for Travancore coins being made legal tender in the Cochin State and in the Imperial Bank.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Krishna Menon, on the first day we were very sorry to hear that you could not, on account of illness, be present here to make your representation which came very early in the list. I am glad to see you to-day sufficiently recovered to make your representation personally.

I shall have very great pleasure in conveying to Her Highness the Maha Rani Regent the expression of the joy of the people of Travancore on the conferment of the title of C. I. on Her Highness.

As regards the subject of your representation, as you yourself began by saying, it is a matter affecting the Royal prerogative and it will

certainly be derogatory to the dignity of a State, which has always had a coinage of its own, to adopt exclusively the coinage of another country.

You say there are some difficulties in converting Travancore currency into British currency. That perhaps is a matter which deserves consideration.

I do not think that the other difficulty that you mentioned, namely, that coins of one denomination are not easily convertible into coins of other denominations, exists very much in Travancore, because you have got Post Offices everywhere and in the Post Offices, except perhaps in the frontier taluks, they accept Travancore currency for British currency. In our Treasuries too, with the exception of some small British coins, other coins are legal tender and you can at any time change the one for the other. The difficulty that you mentioned is therefore, in my opinion, not very serious. But your suggestion in regard to the more easy standardisation of Travancore coinage in relation to British coinage will be considered by the Government.

132. Needs of the Parur taluk.

MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON (*Parur taluk*) spoke on the following needs of the Parur taluk:—

In the Parur taluk, harvest would be over only by the end of Vrischikam. In the months of Tulam and Vrischikam, the yield of the cocoanut trees was poor. The time for the payment of *kists* should therefore be changed from Tulam and Vrischikam to Dhanu and Makaram or at least to Vrischikam and Dhanu as in the Quilon Division.

The Parur taluk, which comprised thirteen *pakuthies*, should be split up into two constituencies for representation in the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly.

The largest number of liquor shops was in the Parur taluk. Their number should be reduced in accordance with the declared policy of Government. The liquor shops situated in the Parur town should be removed from within the municipal limits.

G. O. No. 5118/F & M. R., dated the 21st December 1915, directing that timber should be sold at tariff rates for *bona fide* building purposes, was not followed by the subordinates of the Forest Department stationed in the Parur taluk. Government should issue strict instructions for the sale of timber, from the depots of Varapuzha and Elantikara, at tariff rates for building purposes.

There were no road communications around the Varapuzha depot. The depot should be shifted to Parur.

A dispensary should be opened at Edapally. The hospitals of Parur and Alwaye were situated more than eight miles away. It was seen from the statement relating to the action taken on Assembly representations that the representation made on the subject in the 25th session of the Assembly was disposed of at the meeting. It was not clear how the subject was disposed of. The Inspecting Medical Officer, who visited Edapally some time ago, had promised to open a dispensary there. Should the Government so desire, the people of the locality would erect a building for the purpose.